

Remarks

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Examiner's Office Action dated October 27, 2006, which maintained that the subject matter of claims 14-18 is allowable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and comments set forth below.

By the foregoing amendments, the subject matter of depending claims 11-12 is incorporated into independent claim 10; the dependency of claim 13 is revised to depend from claim 10; and an obvious missing word was added to claim 14. In addition, method claims 1-9 and apparatus claims 11-12 are canceled without prejudice to filing a divisional or continuation application to prosecute those claims. Accordingly, claims 10 and 13-19 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-13 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,678,813 to Osako for the reasons set forth in paragraph 3 spanning pages 3-4 of the Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Osako is directed to a book-binding method for a saddle-stitched bound book. It is the Examiner's position that Figure 9 of Osako discloses three separate bookbinding lines B, D and E. Osaka does not disclose the recited "circulating intermediate conveyor" as reference character 124a of Osako is described as transfer guiding means 124a that guides front-saddle-stitched book b' prepared by bookbinding line B into a feeder 124 (column 10, lines 5-9 of Osako). Thus, the transfer guiding means of Osako does not circulate and is not a conveyor as recited in independent claim 10.

Furthermore, the feeder 124 and transfer guide means of Osako are not positioned **in alignment with** a second conveying section. To the contrary, Osako discloses a guide

means that transfers the books b' into a feeder that is above the conveying chain mechanism 117. There is no disclosure that the transfer guide means of Osako **circulates**; instead, Osako expressly discloses that the transfer means guide books b' to a feeder and nothing more is disclosed. That is, a feeder and not a **circulating** intermediate conveyor is positioned above the alleged second conveying section. This is not the claimed invention.

In order to clarify that the present invention set forth in independent claim 10 is directed to an apparatus for conveying a stitched printed product and depositing the conveyed printed product in an open state onto a protective signature conveyed by the recited second conveying section, the feeder of claim 12 and the adhesive applicator of claim 11 were added to independent claim 10. As argued above, Osako fails to disclose the recited “circulating intermediate conveyor” that picks up the printed product from a removal region of the first conveying section, transports the printing product and then deposits the printed product in an opened state onto the protective signature conveyed by the second conveying section. Nowhere does Osako disclose a “circulating intermediate conveyor” that is in alignment with the second conveying section as recited in claim 10. Transfer guide means 124a sends books b' of Osako into a feeder bin 124. Consequently, Osako cannot anticipate claims 10, 13 and 19 of the present application because it fails to disclose each and every recited features of the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment After Final Rejection places the application in condition for allowance; does not raise new issues that require further consideration and/or search as claim 10 is amended to include the features of depending

claim 12 and intervening depending claim 11; and do not raise issue of new matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final Rejection be entered and this application be passed to issuance indicating that claims 10 and 13-19 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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